of Venereal Diseases, now better known as Sexually Diseases (STDs) are:

(a) Urbanisation and industrialisation leading to social disruption.
(b) Migration
(c) Work related travel and tourism.
(d) Change in social values.
(e) Change in Health seeking behaviour as a result of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign under Programme, because of which more cases are being reported.

(d) and (e) All media of communication including interpersonal communication are being used to create awareness among the people. An IEC package consisting of 4 types of posters, one folder and flip book has been prepared specifically for the persons attending STD clinics for wide display and distribution.

LTTE-Smuggler Nexus on Rameswaram Coastline

1543. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the custom officials at International Airport have busted an international syndicate involved in smuggling Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical used to refine Heroin from Opium to the opium growing countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan etc.;

(b) Whether the Custom authorities have conducted any investigation to establish who has manufactured the Acetic Anhydride, its manufacture has been restricted by Government and to find out other details in respect of smuggling of the same to the above opium growing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) International Airport seized 874 Kgs of Acetic Anhydride on 27.5.96 while attempted to be smuggled out of the country. In the follow up investigation and raids 1241 kgs of Acetic Anhydride was recovered and seized. Investigations have not established the identity of the factory where seized Acetic Anhydride was manufactured. Hence no raid on any factory was undertaken in this regard. Investigations conducted in this connection did not reveal involvement of any international syndicate.

Closure of Indian Banks in London

1544. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks in London have been closed down on flimsy grounds to save other banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Indian bank branches in London were closed on flimsy grounds.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourists Visiting Karnataka

1545. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist, Indian/foreign, who visited places of tourist interest in Karnataka during the last year and so far during the current year; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to provide facilities like cheaper accommodation for low-budget-tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) According to the information available from the State Government, estimated number of Indian and foreign tourists who visited places of tourist interest in Karnataka during 1995 were 44,67,516 and 59,991 respectively.